

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 024-2011

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO:

Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

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FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: January 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Parks & Recreation Department News and Upcoming Events

This Letter to Commission is provided to inform you of some recently held and upcoming events at our Parks.

Special Olympics Regional Tournament - On Saturday, January 8, 2011, the Miami-Dade County Special Olympics Regional Tournament for basketball was held at the North Shore Park and Youth Center. Over 175 athletes participated in events that consisted of individual skills, team skills, unified teams, 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 competitions. Athletes were awarded with participation and performance ribbons for their hard work, and everyone enjoyed a day of good sportsmanship and competitive play. Winners qualified to play in the Special Olympics State Tournament.

The Freak Show - On Saturday, January 8, 2011, the Miami Beach Players (who have recently received the National Dorothy Mullen Award for Arts & Humanities), brought to life once again their latest theatrical piece, "The Freak Show". The play, by teens/actors that attend The City of Miami Beach's Teen Club, consisted of many different skits, dance routines and live music that, while evoking laughter, touch on subjects such as racism, self-consciousness and death. The play placed circus characters in everyday life situations making this their most unique performance ever.

Scott Rakow Youth Center Re-Opening Ceremony & Ice Skating Rink Show- On Sunday, December 19, 2010, the City of Miami Beach Parks & Recreation Department hosted the Scott Rakow Youth Center's long awaited grand re-opening. In addition to the opening, the Scott Rakow ice skating program presented their Winter Skating Showcase. Skaters dazzled the audience with Holiday performances to rhythms like "Let it Snow", "Jingle Bell Rock" and "All I want for Christmas".

Winter Fashion Show - On Friday, December 17, 2010, the North Shore Park and Youth Center hosted a Winter Fashion Show and Dance Presentation. The show displayed the newest trends and styles of winter for this year. Participants from the City of Miami Beach's Parks and Recreation Department's Playtime, After School and Senior Scenes programs performed dances and skits, as well as strutting down the catwalk.

Flamingo Playtime Holiday Show - On Wednesday, December 15, 2010, the Flamingo Park's Playtime class (3 & 4 year olds) brought holiday cheer to their families and friends as they performed several songs, dressed in their red and white candy cane stripped outfits including, "Jingle Bells" and "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel" at their annual Holiday Party. Parents, guardians and friends enjoyed watching them perform.

Seniors' Holiday Party - On Tuesday, December 14, 2010, the City of Miami Beach Parks and Recreation Department and the Miami Beach Convention Center, managed by Global Spectrum, hosted a Holiday Party for approximately 400 senior citizens of Miami Beach at the Convention Center. To add to the fun, Mr. & Mrs. Claus made a special appearance. Members of the Miami Beach Teen Club provided assistance during the event to make this Holiday Party an unforgettable one.

Collins Park Grand Opening - On Sunday, December 12, 2010, the City of Miami Beach Parks & Recreation Department helped host the Collins Park Grand Opening Ceremony. Some of the performances and activities for the afternoon included children's choirs from Temple Beth Sholom, South Pointe Park Elementary School and St. Patrick's. In addition, the Miami Beach Parks & Recreation Department delighted spectators with an Afro American Dance.

6th Annual Winter Wonderland - On Friday, December 3, 2010, the North Shore Park and Youth Center held its 6th Annual Winter Wonderland at North Shore Park. Approximately 2,700 Miami Beach residents and guests attended the largest "Snow Village" on Miami Beach, filled with rides, food, games and our famous **50 TONS OF SNOW** scattered throughout the wonderland! Mr. & Mrs. Clause made a special visit from the North Pole and took pictures with everyone. Children from the City of Miami Beach's Flamingo Park, Scott Rakow Youth Center, North Shore Park and Youth Center and 21st Street's Teen Club after school programs amazed the audience with holiday performances.

Please mark your calendar for these other upcoming happenings:

Black History Night

February 4, 2011 / 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

North Shore Park Youth Center

Cupid's Carnival

February 11, 2011 / 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Flamingo Park Track

Should you have additional questions, please contact Kevin Smith at (305) 673-7730.

JMG/HMF/KS/JM/jg

C:

Hilda M. Fernandez, Assistant City Manager Kevin Smith, Parks & Recreation Director Julio Magrisso, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director